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## **An Act To Allow Civil Penalties for Damaging Utility Property or for Theft of Utility Services**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §2705, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6, is amended to read:

**2. Repair.** The cost of equipment repair or replacement, as necessary; and

**Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §2705, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6, is amended to read:

**3. Other costs.** All other reasonable costs to the utility, including attorney fees and costs of undertaking and completing the investigation resulting in a determination of liability; and

**Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §2705, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

**4. Penalty.** A fine of \$2,500 due and payable to the utility for each offense of utility services wrongfully obtained or each offense of damaging, destroying or tampering with utility property.

### **SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a civil penalty of \$2,500 per offense for theft of utility services or for damaging or tampering with utility property. The penalty may be assessed only following a successful civil action by the utility in a court of competent jurisdiction.